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Translation

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference ST TRUTH-1	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2002/009091	International filing date (day/month/year) 06 September 2002 (06.09.2002)	Priority date (day/month/year)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B65D 19/24		
Applicant ST. TRUTH CO., LTD.		

1.	This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.	
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.	
3.	This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:	
a.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <u>7</u> sheets, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. 	
b.	<input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).	
4.	This report contains indications relating to the following items:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I	Basis of the report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II	Priority
	<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
	<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
	<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
	<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
	<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 21 January 2004 (21.01.2004)	Date of completion of this report 06 May 2004 (06.05.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International application No.

PCT/JP2002/009091

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of:

- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

☐ The international application as originally filed/furnished

☒ the description:

pages _____ 1, 3, 4 _____, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ 2, 5, 6 _____ received by this Authority on 26 April 2004 (26.04.2004)

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

☒ the claims:

pages _____ 2 _____, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages* _____ 1, 3, 4 _____ received by this Authority on 26 April 2004 (26.04.2004)

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

☒ the drawings:

pages _____ 3, 4 _____, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ 1, 2, 5 _____ received by this Authority on 26 April 2004 (26.04.2004)

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, Nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____

☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, Nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____

☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-4	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-4	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-4	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: JP 2778897 B2 (Yugen Kaisha Esuteto Rusu), 8 May 1998

Document 2: JP 7-60721 A (Mitsuboshi Belting Ltd., Terada Takaron Kabushiki Kaisha), 7 March 1995

Document 3: JP 9-1574 A (Nippon Muki Co., Ltd.), 7 January 1997

(1) The purpose of the present invention is to solve the problems of a conventional pallet made of palm fiber, and provide a method and device for manufacturing a high-quality pallet quickly and efficiently.

(2) As a means for achieving this purpose, the inventions described in claims 1 and 3 use a sheet-shaped base material formed from a raw material of plant fiber impregnated with resin, wherein "the raw material is interposed between upper and lower dies having a plurality of hot air ports dispersed throughout and opening at opposing positions, the raw material is pressed between the dies and heated by passing hot air therethrough via communicating ports, thereby molding a pallet having in the surface thereof raised

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and recessed portions corresponding to the hot air ports."

- (3) None of the documents cited in the international search report discloses or suggests the means described in item (2) above and utilized in the inventions described in claims 1 and 3. Accordingly, the inventions described in claims 1 and 3 are novel, involve an inventive step, and fulfill the stipulations set forth in PCT Article 33(2) and (3).
- (4) The inventions described in claims 2 and 4 are dependent claims of claims 1 and 3 respectively, and thus, fulfill the stipulations set forth in PCT Article 33(2) and (3).
- (5) The inventions described in claims 1 to 4 are industrially applicable, and thus, fulfill the stipulations set forth in PCT Article 33(4).